

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN:MAR

APPROVED BY: NEA:AEGRIFFIN

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P 181548Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038825

FOR ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 1490 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
AMMAN ATHENS CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA TEL AVIV USCINCEUR
18 FEBRUARY 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1490

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652:L GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. ENTIRE AMERICAN COMMUNITY WAS OF COURSE SHOCKED BY YES-
TERDAY MORNING'S ATTACK IN AUB CAMPUS WHEN DEAN OF STUDENTS
ROBERT NAJEMY (U.S. CITIZEN) AND DEAN OF ENGINEERING RAYMOND
GHOSN WERE ASSASSINATED BY WHAT, FROM ALL INDICATION, APPEARS
TO BE A DISGRUNTLED FORMER STUDENT. PRES KIRKWOOD NARROWLY
ESCAPED. STUDENT, WHO HAD BEEN REFUSED READMITTANCE IN CONNEC-
TION WITH 1974 STUDENT STRIKE, EVENTUALLY GAVE HIMSELF UP TO PAL-
ESTINIAN ARMED STRUGGLE COMMAND AND HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN
TURNED OVER TO LEBANESE MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HE WAS WOUNDED BY A
FRIEND OF GHOSN'S IN THE PROCESS OF BEING ARRESTED. MEM-
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ORIAL SERVICE AT AUB FOR GHOSN IS TODAY AND FOR NAJEMY

TOMORROW OR LATER. (NEA/ARN PLEASE PASS OUR REPORTS ON THIS MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF ROBER T HOUGH-TON). TODAY UNION OF ARAB STUDENTS AND UNION OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS-LEBANESE SECTION, AS WELL AS A COMMITTEE OF THE STUDENTS EXCLUDED IN 1974 STRIKE PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCING THE ASSASSINATIONS. AUB HAS DECREED 2-DAY CLOSURE IN MOURNING.

2. THOUGH TO ALL APPEARANCES BASICALLY UNCONNECTED, AUB AFFAIR CAME IN TRAIN OF SEVERAL INCIDENTS MONDAY AND TUESDAY WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF KIDNAPPINGS AND COUNTER-KIDNAPPING IN BAB IDRIS-GEORGES PICOT AREA AND ELSEWHERE. FOLLOWED CLOSELY MURDER IN HAMRA OF TURKISH FIRST SECRETARY OKTAR SERIT MONDAY BY WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PROFESSIONAL GUNMEN WORKING FOR ARMENIAN SECRET ARMY. THERE WAS A SECOND ATTACK ON TURKISH DIPLOMATS A FEW HOURS LATER WHICH RESULTED IN WOUNDING AMBASSADOR'S CHAUFFEUR WHO WAS DRIVING AN ATTACHE AT THE TIME. TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS REPORTEDLY THREATENING TO RECALL ALL MEMBERS OF ITS EMBASSY. HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONTAIN VIOLENCE AND GET MOST OF THE KIDNAPPED PEOPLE RELEASED.

3. PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE STUDYING THE QUESTION HAS DECIDED THAT MANDATE OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SHOULD BE EXTENDED FOR TWO YEARS RATHER THAN LESSER PERIOD. THIS IS ONLY A PROPOSAL, PROBABLY A TRIAL BALLOON, AND RUNS CONTRARY TO GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL OF ONE YEAR EXTENSION, ON WHICH THEERE IS MORE GENERAL CONSENSUS.
LAMBRAKIS
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE038825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:AEGRIFFIN:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760061-0176
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760238/aaaabgyr.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 0900 LEBANON REPORT
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006